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HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR FROM CHRIST CHURCH?

As a valued Old Member or Friend of the House, we would like to know how you wish to be kept up to date with alumni news and events, networking and volunteering opportunities, and the many ways you can become involved and support the College. We have created a Communications Preferences Form for Old Members and Friends to complete online at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/alumni/stay-in-touch. Alternatively, please complete the form on the reverse of the enclosed cover sheet and return it to us in the freepost envelope provided.

There has been much in the press recently about charity communications and fundraising. You may have heard of the Etherington Report, the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO), which regulates Data Protection Laws in the UK, and the independent Fundraising Regulator, who sets the Code of Fundraising Practice. There will also be a replacement to the 1998 Data Protection Act introduced on the 25 May 2018; the General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR.

The forthcoming changes to data protection laws in the UK mean that we will need your specific consent to keep in touch with you via email. Completing our Communication Preference Form now will mean you will continue to receive the communications you want, including Christ Church Matters, the eMatters email newsletter, and your Gaudy invitations.

As part of the new regulations, an updated privacy policy will soon be available to all alumni and friends of Oxford University. In the meantime, please see our current Data Protection statement for further details on how we process and look after your data at www.chch.ox.ac.uk/dataprotection.

If you have any questions about your communication preferences, or the changes to the data protection regulations, please contact our Database Manager, Kari Hodson, at kari.hodson@chch.ox.ac.uk.
DEAN’S DIARY

Being Head of the River is something to relish. Our crews have been bumping their way up the river over these past few years. This year, the Men’s Crew finished Head, and our Women’s Crew finished third. It was a sweet moment to savour, especially as our men’s crew bumped Oriel, and held off a strong challenge from Keble. Our special thanks go to the tireless efforts of the crews, the skill of Mike, our Head Coach, who retires this year, leaving on a high note, and to all who support and sustain the Boat Club. Thank you!

We burnt a boat after the dinner on the Broadwalk, as is the custom, and I was able to remark that the glowing ashes may come to be seen not so much as our victory, but rather as the cremation of Keble’s aspirations - whom we gratifyingly pipped to the post. Indeed, I stayed my hand in not offering a small souvenir egg cup of ash from our recently cremated craft to the Warden of Keble.

This was our 33rd Head of the River since 1817, rowing having started on the river in 1815. The first year we took part, 1817, we won. No college has been Head of the River more times than Christ Church. We are now ahead of Oriel, who’ve managed to amass 32 headships.

In the week that I am writing this, we have held the Boat Club Bicentennial Dinner, at which Jonny Searle spoke, and I have blessed a new boat, named Alex Beard, a reminder of our profound gratitude to sponsors, donors and supporters: past, present and future.

At the boat blessing and ‘christening’, it occurred to me that you might enjoy the scripture I selected from Isaiah 43:2 - “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you”. I have sent the bible verse to the Warden of Keble. It is good to bless our friends with the gift of scripture.

In the week that I write this, we have also seen the Grenfell Tower disaster, and the continuing aftermath of the terrorist attacks in London and Manchester. This time last year our Gaudy fell on the same evening as our referendum vote on membership of the EU. The result surprised some. Like many people I stayed up to watch the US presidential election results come in. The result surprised some. Two weeks’ ago I stayed up to watch the results of the General Election. The result surprised some.

We seem to be surrounded by change and uncertainty at the moment. In such times, the House will do all it can to help develop undergraduates and graduates who can provide wise leadership for the places and peoples they will go on to serve. This means the House itself must be a place of stability and wisdom in an age of anxiety. We are here not just to turn out graduands, but also to form citizens – people of strong and stable character who will take their place in society as agents of moral and social capital in the renewal of our fragile world. We seek to turn out graduates who hunger for justice; who can offer wise, compassionate, moderate and temperate leadership in a world sometimes overcome by the flames of overly-passionate rhetoric.

A vast amount goes on at the House, but by far the most important is the daily teaching, learning and research; educating our future leaders; forming citizens of strength, virtue and integrity. That is the reason we are here. We thank our forebears for starting the Christ Church story. We thank their successors who have continued to add to this rich history and narrative. And we thank you too; all of you have your own part to play in writing the next chapters of the House.

The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy, Dean
When Henry VIII founded Christ Church in 1546, he granted land, rectories, and manors in order to provide income to maintain the college buildings, and to pay the Students and staff. The property was, by and large, leased out to principal tenants who managed it as if they were landlords. Even the rectories were ‘farmed’ out, with the great tithe being a profitable advantage for any landowner. But the Dean and Chapter usually held onto the advowson and the right to present the vicar to the parish. More often than not, the incumbents were Students of Christ Church on their first step on the clerical ladder after graduation and ordination.

Many men remained parish priests while others went on to become canons, deans, bishops, and even archbishops. All, though, were involved with the huge changes that took place in church life over the centuries, not least in the nineteenth century, when the Victorian obsession with church restoration began, and churches, rather than agricultural concerns, began to dominate the records of our landed estate. Work began in Christ Church parishes up and down the country, and vicars bombarded the Chapter with requests for financial assistance. Ralph Barnes, the vicar of Ardington for 45 years, was one. He wrote to the Treasurer in October 1845 explaining that he had found himself in an awkward position: Robert Vernon, the art collector who had bought Ardington House in 1833 having made a fortune selling horses to the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars, had repeatedly said that he would give to a refurbishment project but had singularly failed to launch a fund. Barnes thought that, if he started the project, with Christ Church’s backing, Vernon would come good on his promises.

By the following Spring, Barnes had received a quotation of £48 for repairs to the chancel, and work was going well until the archdeacon visited. Edward Berens demanded that the tower be taken down and rebuilt, the nave roof stripped and replaced, the pulpit and reading desk which were in a “deplorable state”...
be repaired, a new communion table purchased, and the seats, coping and paving repaired. As if this weren’t enough, even the Church bible and the bell had to be replaced. The Dean and Chapter ordered their lessee to pay for the work on the chancel, which was by far the smallest part of the costs, but he refused to contribute anything until the rest of the work was completed. The parish was hard hit; the repairs that they had expected to pay for had suddenly rocketed with the archdeacon’s demands. Christ Church, under no obligation, offered £20 towards the chancel work. The estimated total cost was over £600 of which much was to be met by mortgage and through the rates. The arguments ran backwards and forwards. After a year of negotiation, the Dean and Chapter offered £70 on the condition that the lessee gave £35. By this time, of course, the costs had risen still further, and were now creeping above £800. Once the work did start, even more difficulties arose when it was discovered that the chancel roof timbers were in a terrible state, and that a new roof would soon be needed there too. The Dean and Chapter insisted that the work be done, and all within the original budget. The parish did as it was told, and the chancel was ready in time for Easter Day 1847. Whether Vernon ever did make a grant is not recorded in the archive.

But there were other concerns for local vicars. Reverend Marah’s appeal for assistance to repair the chancel of Little Compton church in Gloucestershire was accompanied by a desperate account of parish life. When he took over the parish in 1857, the first thing he noticed, said Marah “was a band of musicians in the gallery; clarinet, fife, bassoon, etc. The band sang when and what they liked, and gave out their own psalms, hymns, and anthems. The young men in the belfry, which is open to the nave, laughed, talked and drew on the walls...” The throwing of stones at the walnut trees in the churchyard led to the treading down of gravestones, and the breaking of church windows. Many went to the Antinomian chapel, as there had been no regular morning service in the parish church, but most stayed at home. “Offices of nature” were performed “openly and unblushingly”, and the local women apparently dried their underwear on the hedges. Poor Reverend Marah was “terrified at the approach of Lady Visitors.” Even the schoolmaster was a drunkard. Marah neglected to remind the Dean and Chapter that, no sooner had he arrived in Little Compton, he had disappeared to the West Indies for his health, but assured them that changes for the better would definitely be seen. Marah was much more successful than Barnes: the Dean and Chapter contributed over £400 to the restoration of the church. It must have been the thought of those bloomers...!
Christ Church student makes first synthetic retina

Vanessa Restrepo-Schild, a graduate student at Christ Church and doctoral student and researcher in the Department of Chemistry, has led a team at Oxford in the development of a ground-breaking synthetic retina, which replicates the natural processes that take place in the human eye.

The study is the first to use synthetic biological tissues; previous research into artificial retinas has used hard materials which can cause scarring or inflammation; but Vanessa and the team created a retina made of soft water droplets (hydrogels) and biological cell membrane proteins. The cells in the artificial retina detect light and create a greyscale image, which can generate electrical signals that can stimulate the neurons at the back of the eye in the same way as an original retina.

The research, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, has the potential to revolutionise the bionic implant industry, allowing for the development of new, less invasive technologies. In the future, such retinas could help to treat patients with degenerative eye conditions.

The next steps involve examining the ways in which the retina could be used with living tissues, to explore how the material would perform as a bionic implant, and continuing to develop the retina, to allow it to recognise different colours, shapes and symbols.

Dr Sam Giles awarded 2017 L’Oreal-UNESCO International Rising Talent Fellowship

Dr Sam Giles, Junior Research Fellow at Christ Church, has been presented with a L’Oreal-UNESCO International Rising Talent Fellowship, an award of €15,000 to be spent on continuing her research, examining vertebrates’ braincases to find out more about their evolution.

The Fellowship is one of the L’Oreal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards, which form part of the initiative set up by the L’Oreal Corporate Foundation and UNESCO with the aim of increasing the number of women working in scientific research. The For Women in Science programme acknowledges and supports women researchers at key points in their careers, with fifteen International Rising Talent Fellowships awarded yearly to promising young female researchers from around the world, selected from the winners of the national and regional fellowship programmes.

Dr Giles’s research is centred around paleobiology and evolution, using fossil evidence combined with modern imaging techniques to understand the evolution of life on earth. She is particularly interested in looking at the anatomy of vertebrates’ brain and braincase, and comparing key living and extinct animals in order to contextualise major evolutionary events and answer questions regarding evolutionary change in vertebrates.

Trinity Term Christ Church Time Event

The latest in our series of Christ Church Time events was a talk given by Dr Ros Holmes, Junior Research Fellow at Christ Church. Launched at the start of this academic year, Christ Church Time is a series of termly talks, seminars and concerts open to all members of Christ Church. The events provide an opportunity for members of the college to come together to find out more about subjects which they may know little, as well as giving research staff a platform for presenting their work, and discussing it in more detail with a cross section of academics.

The talk, entitled ‘Celebrating ‘The Chinternet’: Internet Art Practices in China’, examined a series of internet artworks by the artist Miao Ying (b. 1985). Contextualizing her digital collages in relation to China’s online culture and media spheres, Dr Holmes examined their distinctly self-conscious celebration of what has often disparagingly been labelled ‘The Chinternet’. Interrogating the assumption that internet art emerging from China can only belatedly repeat works of Euro-American precedent, Dr Holmes argued that Miao’s work presents a dramatic reframing of online censorship, consumerism and the unique aspects of vernacular culture that have emerged within China’s online realm.
Professor Kalina Manova awarded Leverhulme Prize and ERC Consolidator Grant

Professor Kalina Manova, Senior Tutor in Economics at Christ Church and Associate Professor in the University of Oxford Department of Economics, has been awarded a Leverhulme Prize of £100,000, in recognition of her past research contributions; and a 5-year ERC (European Research Council) Consolidator Grant of €1.46 million to support her future research on international trade and multinational activity involving Global Value Chains (GVCs).

GVCs revolutionise global trade, as the manufacturing of goods is split into different stages of production carried out by multiple firms in multiple countries. Professor Manova will pursue an ambitious research programme on the causes and consequences of firms’ GVC position, looking at unprecedented new data for the two largest export economies, China and the USA, and one of the most open economies, Belgium. She will design and implement innovative new measures to characterise firms’ GVC participation, and examine how firms’ productivity and management practices determine their GVC position, and how GVCs affect firm growth and profitability. She will also study how firms match with buyers and suppliers to form production networks, and how the evolution of production networks relates to firm growth and shock transmission.

Tower Poetry

This year’s theme of stone for the 17th Christopher Tower Poetry competition attracted over 1,000 entrants (all born between 1998 and 2001) with many schools encouraging entrants for the first time.

At a lunchtime reception at Christ Church on 19 April, Ella Standage, from Alleyn’s School, Dulwich, London was awarded the £3,000 first prize for her poem ‘rosetta’. The judges were Vahni Capildeo and Sarah Howe.

The winner of the £1,000 second prize was Annie Fan (Rugby High School, Warwickshire) with ‘Qianling Stele’ and the third prizewinner, Rachel Oyawale (Woldingham School, Surrey) won £500 with ‘If I Gave You a Stone’. Their schools receive £150 each. Each of the three prizewinners is invited to the Tower Poetry Summer School.

The other short-listed winners, who each received £250, were: Freya Gray Stone (Bristol Grammar School), Flora Barber (Malvern St James Girls’ School, Worcestershire), and Sofia Al-Hussaini (The Maynard School, Exeter, Devon).

53 entrants (excluding the winners) from 50 schools were placed on the longlist representing most regions of the UK. Five of the six prizewinning schools had not previously had winners. A record number of new schools entered this year.

You can see the winning entries for yourself on the Tower Poetry website where our talented young authors read their own poems www.towerpoetry.org.uk and further information on the competition and other Tower projects from info@towerpoetry.org.uk or on 01865 286591. Follow us on Twitter @TowerPoetry; on our Facebook page http://on.fb.me/HrGdyZ or on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/christophertower1.
Professor Judith Pallot’s portrait unveiled

On 14 June the new portrait by artist Jason Sullivan of Emeritus Student in Geography Professor Judith Pallot was unveiled. Professor Pallot will be the first female fellow to have her portrait hung in Hall, joining illustrious former members and other figures associated with the House, such as Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, John Locke and William Gladstone. She is of particular significance at Christ Church as the first female Official Student, joining the college in 1979.

The portrait was unveiled at a drinks reception in the Picture Gallery, attended by many members of the college. Before revealing the new portrait, the Dean spoke of how much had changed at Christ Church since Professor Pallot’s appointment, going on to talk about how lucky students felt to have been taught by her during their time. Professor Pallot spoke of what a special experience it was to sit for her portrait, and said that she hopes that this will be part of a process of wider diversification in the portraiture at Oxford. Artist Jason Sullivan was invited to tell us more about the portrait itself, describing the time he had spent walking around college with Professor Pallot to find the perfect backdrop for the portrait, before deciding on her office. He provided a fascinating insight into various aspects of the picture, including the inclusion of a painting of Baboushka to denote Professor Pallot’s research interests and time spent in Russia, some ivy on the wall in the background to show her love of nature, the typically Christ Church chair that she is sitting on, and a teacup in the foreground, to symbolise the excellent hospitality that Jason received whilst working at Christ Church.

Professor Pallot’s research interests include agrarian transformation in post-Soviet Russia, and the geography of penality in Russia. After her arrival at Oxford, she was responsible for developing the teaching and research of Soviet and Russian Geography, and actively sought to promote interdisciplinary links in Russian and Eastern European Studies. She taught core papers in Human Geography, as well as the geography of post-Soviet Russia and Eastern Europe. She was also involved in teaching a final-year paper that forms part of the Geography honours course, focussing on the geography of Russian and East Central Europe, she lectured in the first year course on Cold War political geography; and was also a graduate supervisor for topics ranging from environmental issues and rural society, to contemporary urban change.

Christ Church appoints a new Development Director

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Mark Coote as Development Director from 1st October 2017 to succeed Mr Marek Kwiatkowski who has taken up an appointment at the University of Adelaide.

Mark Coote has served as CEO of the Wells Cathedral School Foundation in Somerset since 2010. He led the successful public fundraising phase of major capital development projects including a state-of-the art music facility and sports pavilion. He was also responsible for the launch of the school’s ten year Bursary Fundraising appeal.

Before Wells Mark spent more than five years as a national fundraising director for Cancer Research UK, Britain’s largest charity, where he led the Community Fundraising operation. At CRUK Mark forged major new networks with companies and individuals that resulted in fruitful fundraising partnerships.

Mark’s background is in secondary education teaching both History and Politics.

The Dean of Christ Church, the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy said: “Mark’s accomplishments in development and fundraising will be an important asset for the House. He has a wide portfolio of achievements including in education, the charitable sector and a range of other innovative projects. We warmly welcome Mark’s appointment, and look forward to him becoming part of the team here.”
Long ago, in a work which Goethe called ‘the sweet Analytics’, Aristotle invented formal logic – the study of the abstract structures which guarantee the validity of arguments which possess those structures. A later school of Greek philosophers called the Stoics extended Aristotle’s system. Many subsequent thinkers worked on logic down the centuries, but it was the German philosopher Gottlob Frege (1848–1925) who essentially gave it its current form. In doing so, he also laid the foundations of what is sometimes called ‘analytic philosophy’ – the dominant form of Anglophone philosophy since the second half of the 20th century – by creating tools of quite extraordinary precision for analysing what thought a given sentence expresses and for pinning down the conditions under which that thought might be true. The work which made Michael Dummett one of the leading philosophers of the 20th century was concerned with Frege in two distinct ways. The first was that Dummett was keen to explore and to champion the work of Frege himself (notwithstanding some fundamental disagreements). In a magisterial series of books including *Frege: Philosophy of Language* (1973; second edition 1981) and *Frege: Philosophy of Mathematics* (1991) he quite simply put Frege on the philosophical map. The second was a lifelong examination of the idea of truth itself. It is natural to think of the truths in any area of thought as being just what they are quite independently of us or our judgments, and even independently of whether we can, in principle, discover these truths. This view is called realism about the area in question. Antirealists, by contrast, either think that there are no truths at all in the area (e.g. it is plausible to think that there are no facts about what is amusing – only facts about what individual people or groups of people find amusing), or they hold that there are indeed truths, but that these are not independent of our judgments and practices. What might seem a banality illustrates this difficult idea. The principle of bivalence says that every statement –
every sentence of the right form to be true or false – is either true or false. Now in the case of some branches of mathematics (Dummett’s principal but not his only target) we can prove that, whatever set of axioms we choose, there will be some statements which are undecidable; they cannot, even in principle, be proved to be true or proved to be false. The realist accepts bivalence for mathematics nonetheless: she thinks that these statements are indeed either true or false. This is what we would expect, since the realist holds that truths are the way they are quite independently of what we can do or know. This position is both attractive (surely that is just what truth involves?) and unattractive – or so at least Dummett argued. He thought that it is not enough to think we understand a sentence: we only really understand it if we can manifest that understanding by being able to give an account of how we could tell if it were true: so from within the perspective of a given mathematical system we cannot really understand its undecidable theorems – and so we cannot uphold the principle of bivalence. (Dummett here deploys a highly sophisticated version of a view called verificationism, advanced in a much simpler form by A.J. Ayer in the famous book he wrote while a lecturer at Christ Church, Language, Truth and Logic). If successful, Dummett’s argument has far-reaching implications for the nature of mathematics (for example, in relation to the role that infinity can and cannot properly play in it). Dummett disarmingly conceded the attractions of the realist positions he opposed even while urging that they are untenable. A remark at the end of an article discussing realism about the past illustrates this, as well as his uncompromisingly trenchant style: ‘of course, like everyone else, I feel a strong undertow towards the realist view; but, then, there are certain errors of thought to which the human mind seems naturally prone.’

JCR REPORT

JCR President, Ali Hussain (2015), on the JCR activities over the last twelve months.

We’ve had an excellent year in the Christ Church JCR! This year the JCR has established a new position, the Library Rep, who has worked with college library staff to extend the library’s opening hours to 1am every day of the week. The JCR LGBTQ rep worked with members of the GCR Committee and House Committee to ensure that the Rainbow flag will be flown in Peckwater Quad in February, LGBTQ History Month, every year. The JCR itself has been spruced up with new wall lights, bean bags, armchairs and table tennis table, which we inaugurated with a JCR ping pong competition in Trinity term. We’ve also initiated discussions about opening a student café in the JCR – feel free to contact me with any thoughts at president@christchurchjcr.org. The JCR’s RAG reps also organized a 3rd annual James Trickey charity run and raised over £400.

Here’s a sports round-up by the JCR Sports Rep Ollie Grell:

It’s been a bountiful year on the pitch for the House, more or less across the board. The cricket and tennis teams are off to excellent starts in their respective seasons, the cricketers especially resplendent in some fresh new whites. Participation in rounders is nothing short of unprecedented. Over the season at large, ChCh AFC began their long climb back to the golden era of 2010, taking JCR Division 3 by storm and going all the way to the final of cuppers, just missing out on making history. Women’s rugby also reached cuppers’ final in a multiple-college team, while men’s rugby capped an enjoyable season on and off the pitch with a combative away victory in the Trinity Exchange. Christ Church members have won blues in everything from women’s rugby to water polo. The Oxford mixed lacrosse team has continued its agreeable recent tradition of being largely made up of Christ Church players, generating amusing and ill-founded allegations of nepotism. The truth is, we’re actually quite good. On the fast-moving digital pitch that is the modern sport of social media, Christ Church has made a great stride into the present. Members can peruse photographs of pure sporting drama on the Christ Church Sport Facebook page, updated with the latest news of the House’s sporting endeavours.

Multiple Old Girls/Boys sports games have also helped stoke the fires of tradition. Under the wise eyes of Carl Wright, our groundsman, the sports ground has continued to be a fitting temple to college sport, and is quite unquestionably the best place to play on Iffley Road (university sports centre eat your heart out). I look forward to another year of engagement, achievement and raucous enjoyment from our many distinguished teams and players. It has been a pleasure to serve.
Mark Uckermann, (2013) 1st in MEng in Engineering, Economics, and Management on his experiences at Christ Church.

Studying at Christ Church has been a fantastic and hugely formative experience for me, both academically and personally. The college system, especially at an undergraduate level, encourages interdisciplinary discourse and friendships. The pre-paid and served dinner system in Christ Church is especially well suited for debates and discussions. I have learnt to listen, accept and value differences in opinion, and appreciate the immense breadth of knowledge and ideas beyond my own subject’s syllabus. Dinners also served as a forced but welcome break from studying. The academic pace, in my experience, was rapid to start with and increased year on year. The quality of lectures and tutorials varies considerably but the rate of acquiring knowledge in the tutorial system is phenomenal. Many of my tutors were outstanding in their efforts to engage with their tutorial groups. Quick feedback, small group sizes, and casual settings encouraged questions and a high quality of learning. On top of that, my tutors always motivated me to be the best I could be. However, the fast pace often did not leave time to fully engage with the content and I constantly felt like I was behind on my work and lacking deep, fundamental understanding. Little time for practical experience and a tendency to cram for exams further amplified this feeling of academic shallowness. Only in my final year, during project work, did I realise that the important thing I have learnt is not knowledge but the ability to acquire it.

Only in my final year, during project work, did I realise that the important thing I have learnt is not knowledge but the ability to acquire it.
LIBRARY IN FULL SWING: PRESTIGIOUS COLLABORATIONS AND JOINT VENTURES

Dr Cristina Neagu (Keeper of Special Collections, Christ Church Library) tries to keep pace with the Library’s ever growing calendar of events.

As we get closer to the end of another academic year, we might perhaps feel a little more tired than usual, but with the library being centre-stage of so much exciting research and so many unique events, we have good reason to feel particularly delighted and truly grateful. One reason for the past few months being so successful is that we have managed to attract a wide range of prestigious collaborations.

First, there is the ongoing partnership with the Bodleian Library. Apart from our already established cooperation with the Digital Scholarship team working on the manuscripts digitisation project, the organisers of Staging History, a major exhibition on theatrical ephemera open from 14 October 2016 to 8 January 2017, approached us for a loan to highlight aspects of the Christ Church “Brady” collection. This is an invaluable primary resource for entertainment containing tens of thousands of items ranging in date from the 17th to 20th centuries. The only comparable collections worldwide are at the V&A, the British Museum, the University of Pennsylvania and New York Public Library. So, in order to raise the profile hoping that some day we will find the funds to enable us to put the Christ Church collection on the map, we joined forces with the Bodleian and not only had items on loan, but also opened an exhibition of our own, The Miniature Stage - 19th Century English Toy Theatre in Christ Church Collections, to run in parallel.

This was not the only exhibition of ours to run simultaneously with one at the Bodleian Library. During the autumn term we scheduled a series of events to celebrate Richard Hakluyt’s 400 anniversary. The series started with the opening of our exhibition Hakluyt and Geography in Oxford 1550–1650. To do this in style, we initiated a collaboration with the Museum for the History of Science and the Hakluyt Society. A related exhibition, The World in a Book: Hakluyt and Renaissance Discovery, opened at the Bodleian Library. This was followed by a two-day conference, Hakluyt and the Renaissance Discovery of the World, which took place on 24 November at the Bodleian Library, and on 25 November 2016 at Christ Church. Twenty scholars, all leading specialists in different aspects of Hakluyt’s work, presented talks on a variety of themes. The conference concluded with a Public Lecture by Professor Michael Wood. Over 200 people attended.

Another equally prestigious conference, generously funded by the European Association for Jewish Studies, Jewish Books and their Christian Collectors in
Europe, the New World and Czarist Russia, has just finished. It took place on 22 and 23 May 2017. The conference benefitted from a stellar cast. Thirteen internationally acclaimed specialists shared the results of their recent research. The conference launched *Jewish Books and their Christian Readers*, an exhibition open in the Upper Library from 22 May to 20 October 2017.

Once more, this project was the result of a series of collaborations, with the Bodleian Library again, but also with Westminster Abbey and other colleges such as Lincoln and Merton in Oxford, and Queen’s in Cambridge. On the Hebrew studies front, we owe an enormous amount to Dr Rahel Fronda (Deputy Curator of Hebraica and Judaica at the Bodleian), whose expertise and passion for the collection at Christ Church has unveiled gem after gem and has made all this possible.

Finally, mention should be made of a ground-breaking enterprise, the Wolsey Manuscripts Project, a new online resource (www.wolseymanuscripts.ac.uk) which now permanently reunites in digital form two of the finest ‘twin’ manuscripts to be found in the collections of Christ Church and Magdalen College: the Gospel and Epistle Lectionaries commissioned by Cardinal Thomas Wolsey in the late 1520s. As these codices have been the subject of intense academic scrutiny, the project was launched with a symposium and a roundtable workshop on 11 and 12 May 2017. All this was devised and developed as an equal partnership between the libraries of Christ Church and Magdalen College.

So much was achieved and, looking back, collaborations helped enormously. Recent research and the wonders of the Wolsey manuscripts can now be perused at length on a dedicated website. The digital library grows at a steady pace. Recordings of talks and performances from scores in the music collection have started to become available. The Jewish Books exhibition is accompanied by a lavishly illustrated monograph (which can be ordered from the Library) and the highly anticipated *Descriptive Catalogue of the Western Manuscripts to c.1600, in Christ Church, Oxford* edited by David Rundle and Ralph Hanna, is due to be published this summer. But this is a story for another time. As I said, we are in full swing!

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**Below (left):** Digitising the Wolsey Gospel Lectionary. The process starts with positioning the manuscript safely on the conservation book cradle for the camera.

**Below (right):** Conservator examining the Wolsey Gospel Lectionary before digitisation. Photo Daryl Green (Magdalen College).
Coming from a family that didn’t have a tradition of going to university, what were your perceptions of Oxford before coming here?

When I was little I wanted to go to Oxford University. I didn’t really know what university was, but I was in a Harry Potter phase, and after realising Hogwarts probably wasn’t going to happen for me Oxford seemed like the next best thing.

As I got older Oxford still seemed like a bit of a fantasy. It’s very far removed from where I grew up, in a small village outside of Lancaster. I was raised by my mum; she left school at sixteen, and although she was always very keen that I ‘get on’ and make something of myself I don’t think she ever thought Oxford was on the cards. I knew very little about Oxford other than its formidable reputation. There was an unspoken sense that it wasn’t for the likes of us. Walking into Tom Quad on Open Day seemed like another world. In the end I figured I had nothing to lose by applying, though I didn’t expect much to come of it! I’ll never forget opening my offer letter – to say it was life-changing is an understatement.

You benefitted from an Oxford Opportunities Bursary. What difference did that make to your experience of university?

Going to Oxford was by far the most affordable way that I could have gone to university. The Bursary meant I never had to worry about money during my degree – which, after many years of worrying about money, is something I’ll always be incredibly grateful for. It meant I could live comfortably in term-time, and help pay rent at home in the vacations without going back to my café job when I should have been studying. On top of the bursary I also benefited from Christ Church-specific financial support. The subsidised food and rent were a big deal for me when applying, and it was support from Christ Church that allowed me to take part in an exchange at Princeton University in my second year. That turned out to be a really formative experience for me as a historian. Having the college hardship fund as a safety net was also important. It meant a lot to know that if I ever got into money trouble Christ Church would be there to help out.

What motivated you to set up Oxford First-Generation Students?

When I arrived in Oxford, for the first time in my life I felt very conscious of my background. We talk a lot about getting disadvantaged students into Oxford, but not what happens to them when they get in. You often feel like you’re living a double life: in term-time your life is elegant dinners and white-tie balls, and then you...
The challenges we face when it comes to access are huge. There’s no quick fix; you have to reach out to students early, be a sustained presence in their academic development – raising both attainment and aspiration – and support them fully throughout applications and when they arrive as undergraduates. What we should focus on as a college is being suitably ambitious. We’ve often led the way in access work, not least with our partnership with education charity IntoUniversity, who do great work in some of the UK’s most disadvantaged regions. We should continue to be bold, and be prepared to innovate if we’re serious about attracting the best academic talent, wherever it may come from. If not we risk losing out on a huge pool of untapped potential. ■

Christ Church is taking new measures to attract applicants with outstanding academic potential from the broadest possible range of backgrounds. A new Schools Liaison Officer will help us work directly with schools. More initiatives will be announced in September: these include financial support to complement the Oxford Bursaries or help those who narrowly miss out on Moritz-Heyman Scholarships. And a small number of Prize Scholarships will be awarded to students from low- to middle-income families on the basis of academic excellence. More details to follow!

**ACCESS AND OUTREACH**

go home in the vac where you’re worrying about affording heating and the weekly shop. That can be a very lonely experience.

I founded First-Gen to help bring together other students who were the first in their family to go to university, many of whom are also from low-income or disadvantaged backgrounds. We run social events, awareness campaigns, and we work alongside college and university access programmes to develop new initiatives. In our first week we had over three hundred students join us; First-Gen is now going into its third year and I’m very proud that Christ Church has continued to support the society as it grows ever bigger!

**After your degree you worked as Christ Church’s Access and Outreach Officer. What do you feel were your most important contributions?**

I loved working for Christ Church this past year. Getting to meet young people from all over the country was brilliant. Running primary-school ‘mock-graduation’ ceremonies was always great fun, particularly when the students are all dressed up in their mini caps and gowns! You also get a real buzz when you’ve managed to convince a bright seventeen-year-old to apply who might otherwise never have considered it. What I’m proudest of are our new initiatives designed to attract and support low-to-middle income students at Christ Church, which will be announced later this year. It’s something that’s very close to my heart. I’m really proud to have been a part of making more young people’s dream of attending Oxford and Christ Church a reality, and to help them thrive once they’re here.

**What do you think Christ Church should focus on now in relation to access?**

Christ Church open days.

Top, above and left:

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Francesco Durante’s Requiem in C Minor

The choir’s most recent CD is the premiere recording of my edition of Francesco Durante’s Requiem in C Minor. This unusual work has attracted much media attention in the wake of the release, not only for the quality of the performance, but also because it has gone some way towards reinstating the composer’s reputation as comparable with that of other better-known eighteenth-century figures such as Pergolesi.

Music historians have credited Francesco Durante (1684–1755) as a prime mover in the establishment of a Neapolitan ‘school’ of composition in the middle of the eighteenth century. In fact, it has been convenient for posterity to celebrate him more for his pupils than for his own work. However, he was a composer of considerable skill and invention, finding a way of combining his mastery of counterpoint with an elegance of melody, a richness of harmony and a structural instinct which resulted in some memorable compositions. Charles Burney regarded him as ‘the greatest harmonist, as well as the best instructor of his time’.

A native of Naples, he was successively Primo Maestro of three of the conservatories in the city. These institutions were originally founded in the sixteenth century for the education and care of young orphans and, from the seventeenth century onwards, they also took paying pupils some of whom specialised in the study of music.

Durante’s Requiem in C Minor was probably written for a Requiem Mass for Philip V of Spain held in the church of S. Giacomo degli Spagnoli in Rome in September 1746. It is scored for two choirs, five soloists and strings and is certainly one of the most important orchestral Requiems of the period. In preparing my scholarly performing edition I have consulted sixteen of the more than fifty sources of the work, ranging from the autograph manuscript dated 1746, to a copy dated 1871. There could be no greater evidence for its widespread dissemination throughout Europe over a period of more than a century than this corpus of manuscripts.

For clues about the performers at the work’s premiere we have to look to the late seventeenth century, as we lack precise details about the musical resources at S. Giacomo in 1746. There is a record of the musicians involved in the outdoor Easter morning celebrations in 1687 (in the Piazza Navona), at which there were seventeen singers and players. For special occasions such as patronal feasts and Requiems inside the church, it is likely that platforms were built to accommodate extra musicians. One can speculate that for this Requiem, Choir 1 might have been in the organ gallery and Choir 2 on a platform on the other side of the nave with its own organ.

As a whole, it is not hard to understand why this Requiem was so popular for over a century after its composition, for Durante created a route to the heart of the meaning of the text by transcending the clichés of mid-eighteenth-century Neapolitan musical language and achieving a striking combination of harmony and melody.

We are pleased to offer the CD to Christ Church alumni at a specially discounted price of £10. This can be obtained via the choir’s website (www.chchchoir.org) using the code CHCHALUMNI.
THE OXFORDS

Haydn Rawstron MNZM (1968), highlights the need to support a longstanding, long distance venture.

The House’s twin foundation of cathedral-college is unique. So, too, is the twin heritage of Christ Church and our eponymous Christchurch, down under.

Twenty years ago, our Director of Music, Dr Stephen Darlington visited Christchurch. During that trip was born the outreach initiative, known as ‘THE OXFORDS’. Every year since Christ Church has organised and sent out to Christchurch THE OXFORDS, a small group of choral men from the Cathedral Choir.

The Choirmen present a series of public recitals and, leading by example, teach the art of choral chamber-singing, to the senior music pupils at Christ’s College. However, their most important work is done in singing in the regular choral services with the Christchurch Cathedral Choir and with the chapel choir at Christ’s College where they are hosted.

This Christ Church-inspired OXFORDS’ project will now be taken into the endowment programme of The Cathedral Music Trust, with the aim of raising £300k to ensure its future in perpetuity. It is to be hoped that this particular part of our overall music endowment will appeal to a good quorum of members.

Our staircases at The House developed poets, politicians and priests. Amongst them was John Robert Godley, Gladstone’s ‘king among men’, who gathered around him friends from his House days and together with other Oxbridge men, and that doyen of colonial reform, Edward Gibbon Wakefield, planned Christchurch and its province, Canterbury. Godley himself went to New Zealand and governed the first two full years (1850-52) of the settlement personally. He noted ‘the beginning is everything’ and in that beginning ubiquitously were the staircase lessons from The House.

The House in the early 1830s shaped the minds of Godley and his friends amid the intellectual climate of post-French Revolution, the debate around the Great Reform Bill, the climax of Wilberforce’s work and the beginning of Newman’s Tracts. They moulded the reform ‘geist’ of these young men, who became high-churchmen, politically liberal and followers of Gladstone. Their ‘Christchurch and Canterbury’ soon powered ahead and, in its first hundred years, disproportionately influenced the overall development of New Zealand.

Haydn Rawstron with his wife Dorothee Jansen (soprano) and Floriane Peycelon (violin). The trio will perform their narropera of ‘Così fan tutte’ at the Benefactors’ Gaudy, in the Upper Library, in support of the Cathedral Music Trust.

St Peter’s, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch

Old Member Martin Dixon studied Chemistry at the House from 1970 to 1974, finishing with an M.A., Honours in the School of Chemistry. Now living in New Zealand, he worships at St Peter’s, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch which – for nearly 160 years – has been the spiritual, cultural and community centre of Upper Riccarton. However, since the church was severely damaged during the 2011 Canterbury earthquakes, the congregation and local community have shown great resilience by continuing worship services and activities in the Parish Hall. In a city that has lost so much of its heritage, St Peter’s is now fundraising to restore this important building so the Church can again fully support its congregation and the community it serves. The fundraising target is $2M, which will ensure this caring, inclusive, diverse and forward-thinking church can reinstate the heritage aspects of the building and provide new purpose-built features that will support community activity.

St Peter’s is now reaching out to the global Anglican community for financial support to meet this target to see the project through to completion; any assistance would be gratefully received by the St Peter’s community.

Find out more about this special church and contribute to its restoration today at: https://stpeterschurch.nz/restoration/
ALUMNI

FROM ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO MACHINE LEARNING

Dr Paul A. Bilokon (2011), gives an informed history of the creation and development of AI and how it is valued today.

Ever since the dawn of humanity inventors have been dreaming of creating sentient and intelligent beings. Hesiod (c. 700 BC) describes how the smithing god Hephaestus, by command of Zeus, moulded earth into the first woman, Pandora. The story wasn’t a particularly happy one: Pandora opened a jar – Pandora’s box – releasing all the evils of humanity, leaving only Hope inside when she closed the jar again. Ovid (43 BC – 18 AD) tells us a happier legend, that of a Cypriot sculptor, Pygmalion, who carved a woman named Galatea out of ivory and fell in love with her. Miraculously, the statue came to life. Pygmalion married Galatea and it is rumoured that the town Paphos is named after the couple’s daughter.

Stories of golems, anthropomorphic beings created out of mud, earth, or clay, originate in the Talmud and appear in the Jewish tradition throughout the Middle Ages and beyond. One such story is connected to Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel (1512 – 1609), the Maharal of Prague. Rabbi Loew’s golem protected the Jewish community and helped with manual labour. Unfortunately, the golem ran amok and had to be neutralised by removing the Divine Name from his forehead.

Mary Shelley’s Gothic novel Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus (first published in London in 1818) tells us about another early experiment in artificial life. That one also went wrong: the Monster, created by the scientist Victor Frankenstein, turned on his creator.

More than a century had passed since Frankenstein’s fictional experiment when, in summer of 1956, a group of researchers gathered at a workshop organised by John McCarthy, then a young Assistant Professor of Mathematics, at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. Marvin Minsky, Trenchard More, Oliver Selfridge, Claude Shannon, Herbert Simon, Ray
Solomonoff, and Nathaniel Rochester were among the attendees. The stated goal was ambitious: “The study is to proceed on the basis of the conjecture that every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can, in principle, be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it. An attempt will be made to find how to make machines use language, form abstractions and concepts, solve kinds of problems now reserved for humans, and improve themselves.” Thus the field of artificial intelligence, or AI, was born.

The participants were optimistic about the success of this endeavor. In 1965, Simon proclaimed that “machines will be capable, within twenty years, of doing any work a man can do”. Around the same time, Minsky estimated that within a single generation “the problem of creating ‘artificial intelligence’ will substantially be solved.”

Indeed, there had been some early successes. In 1960, Donald Michie1 built the Machine Educable Noughts And Crosses Engine (MENACE) out of matchboxes. This machine learned to play Tic-Tac-Toe without knowing any of the game’s rules. In his 1964 PhD thesis, Daniel G. Bobrow produced the Lisp program STUDENT that could solve high school algebra word problems. Around the same time, Joseph Weizenbaum’s program ELIZA (named after Eliza Doolittle) used pattern matching to conduct a “conversation” with a human – this was one of the first chatbots.

One successful idea pioneered by Minsky and Seymour Papert at MIT was the blocks world, an idealised physical setting consisting of wooden blocks of various shapes and colours placed on a flat surface. The researchers built a system (1967–1973) consisting of a robotic arm and a video camera that could manipulate these blocks. Minsky reasoned that the real world consisted of relatively simple interacting agents – much like the program operating the robotic arm: “Each mental agent by itself can only do some simple thing that needs no mind or thought at all. Yet when we join these agents in societies – in certain very special ways – this leads to true intelligence.” Such multiagent systems are actively studied by computer scientists to this day.

The blocks world also aided some early advances in natural language understanding. Terry Winograd’s SHRDLU2 (1968–1970), a micro planner written in Lisp, could converse with a human and discuss the objects and their properties within a blocks world.

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1. Donald Michie studied at Balliol College between 1945 and 1952.

2. If you are interested in the history of this program’s name, look up http://hci.stanford.edu/winograd/shrdlu/name.html
Not everyone was as optimistic about AI as Minsky and Simon. In 1966 the US National Research Council’s Automatic Language Processing Advisory Committee (ALPAC) produced a damning report on machine translation. The report concluded that machine translation was inaccurate, slow, and expensive. Across the Atlantic Ocean, Sir James Lighthill submitted *Artificial Intelligence: A General Survey* (1973) to the British Science Research Council. The survey stated that “in no part of the field have discoveries made so far produced the major impact that was then promised”. Funding for AI research began to dry up – an *AI winter* had set in. By late 1980s, the Lisp machine market had collapsed. By early 1990s, the use of expert systems, usually built in Lisp, had declined.

The claims made by the first generation of AI researchers had backfired. Moreover, AI became a moving target: once computers learned to do something that only humans were capable of up until then, it was no longer regarded as AI.

However, more successes followed. In 1976, a computer was used to prove the long-standing “four-colour theorem”. Kenneth Appel and Wolfgang Haken resorted to an exhaustive analysis of many particular cases by a computer. In 1996, William McCune developed an automated reasoning system that proved Herbert Robbins’ conjecture that all Robbins algebras are Boolean algebras. McCune’s program used a method that was deemed sufficiently creative by humans. A year later, IBM’s supercomputer Deep Blue defeated Garry Kasparov, then a reigning world chess champion. In 2014, in a University of Reading Turing test competition organised at the Royal Society by Huma Shah and Kevin Warwick, a Russian chatbot Eugene Goostman convinced 33% of the judges that it was human – thus passing the Turing test.

The foundations of self-driving cars were laid down during the No Hands Across America Navlab 5 USA tour in 1995, when two researchers from Carnegie Mellon University’s Robotics Institute “drove” from Pittsburg, PA to San Diego, CA using the Rapidly Adapting Lateral Position Handler (RALPH) to steer while the scientists handled the throttle and brake. The system drove the van all but 52 of the 2,849 miles by day and by night. Today Oxford has its own RobotCar – it is being developed by a team led by Will Maddern.

Since, to quote the Economist (7 June 2007), the term artificial intelligence is “associated with systems that have all too often failed to live up to their promises”, scientists prefer to talk about machine learning (ML). Intel’s Nidhi Chapel explains the difference: “AI is basically the intelligence – how we make machines intelligent, while machine learning is the implementation of the computer methods that support it. The way I think of it is: AI is the science and machine learning the algorithms that make the machines smarter. So the enabler for AI is machine learning.”

The field of machine learning is thriving today, largely fuelled by advances in computational capabilities and deep neural networks. This, however, merits a separate article. We shall conclude this one with a quote from Michael Beeson’s *The Mechanization of Mathematics* (2004): “In 1956, Herb Simon, one of the ‘fathers of artificial intelligence’, predicted that within ten years computers would beat the world chess champion, compose ‘aesthetically satisfying’ original music, and prove new mathematical theorems. It took forty years, not ten, but all these goals were achieved – and within a few years of each other!”
Although we know reasonably little of his military exploits, General John Guise (1702) must rank as one of our most useful alumni, as on his death he bequeathed to the House his extensive collection of paintings and Old Master drawings. This bequest formed the basis of the Picture Gallery collection, and has been on permanent display for members of the College and the public for over 250 years.

We can also claim – with less integrity – Field Marshall His Grace The Duke of Wellington. In 1834 he edged out one of our actual alumni – his fellow Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel (1805) – to become Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and on election to that office he was further elected an Honorary Student of Christ Church. It is, therefore, (sort of) reasonable to count the victor of Waterloo as one of our own.

In this issue we have contributions from rather more recent members, drawn from each of the three branches of the British armed forces. Between them they offer an intriguing picture of modern military service and the benefits (or otherwise) thereto of a Christ Church education.

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When I was first asked to take over the editorship of Association News from Matt Hackett (2006) my thoughts turned to my last great editing challenge. On that occasion, sitting in the GCR during a Eurovision viewing party, I vividly remember staring at the word count of my thesis, as – no matter what I tried – it resolutely stuck at ten thousand over the limit.

Happily, the experience so far has proved considerably less bleak. Indeed it has been genuinely enlightening to read of such diversity of interest and experience among our members as is showcased through the books reviewed in this issue. From clergy to cricket, personal finance to rowing, radiobiology to the history of colour, and much more besides, the volumes considered here are a great rebuke to those who opine that an Oxbridge education produces nothing but homogeneous drones.

Elsewhere we explore life in the armed forces through the reflections of three members on how their time at Christ Church shaped their subsequent military careers. The House has long had an association with the armed forces, and over the last four and a half centuries many of its members have followed up a few years at Christ Church with distinguished service for their country, or vice versa. You have only to walk from Tom Quad into the Cathedral to witness a vivid testimony to this association. The sheer number of names on the memorials to those who gave their lives in the two World Wars reminds us of the great sacrifice made by those who went before us.

In this issue we have contributions from rather more recent members, drawn from each of the three branches of the British armed forces. Between them they offer an intriguing picture of modern military service and the benefits (or otherwise) thereto of a Christ Church education.
Family Programme
Lunch, 11 March 2017
Christ Church welcomed relatives of new students to lunch in the Hall.

1967 & 1977 Reunion Dinner, 1 April 2017
Old members and their spouses/partners returned for an Anniversary Dinner in Hall.

Oxford in North America, 4, 5, & 6 April 2017
Christ Church joined the University’s Alumni programme in North America, with events in Los Angeles, Palo Alto and New York.

Aspley House Visit, 25 April 2017
Members and friends enjoyed a drinks reception and private tour of No. 1 London with grateful thanks to His Grace the Duke of Wellington (1964).
DINNER WITH SIR MICHAEL MORITZ AND SIR ALEX FERGUSON

The Bursaries and Scholarships Fundraising Dinner on 27 April raised £250k for Student Support and Access. Held at the Savoy, Sir Michael Moritz (1973) interviewed his friend and co-author of Leading, Sir Alex Ferguson, who was the special guest.
Welcome to the House of Lords, this gingerbread palace beside the Thames; a place of mice and men. Although the mice seem to be winning.

At this time of year we remember Guy Fawkes, whose grisly end we are about to celebrate on Bonfire night. It’s extraordinary that we celebrate such a character - although he was said to be the only man ever to enter the House of Lords with an honest intent.

For my own part, I’ve been a member of this place for six years. It’s unclear whether I was given a peerage because of my contribution to British fiction or to Conservative politics. It’s also unclear what the difference is.

This is a place of executions, assassinations, great trials like those of William Wallace, Thomas More, Charles I. It is also the spot where King Canute is now believed to have had his tussle with the tide. A thousand years of extraordinary history.

Of course, this isn’t the original palace. The old palace was burned down in 1832 - some reckoned as punishment for the passage of the 1832 Reform Act. York Minster had suffered a terrible fire just a couple of years earlier and there were conspiracy theorists who saw in both the hand of some militant Catholic, although it turned out that the Minster fire had been set not by militant Catholic but by a deranged Methodist. And the Palace of Westminster burned while two workmen who had overstuffed the furnace that heated the House of Lords went off to the pub.

This is just one of many of my Houses. Another significant ‘other’ is the House of Cards, a celebration of FU which I created nearly 30 years ago and which has transformed my life. This time last year I was privileged to meet here in the House of Lords with China’s President Xi who was on a state visit. To mark the occasion I decided to give him a dedicated copy of the original hardback, now rather difficult to find. His face lit up as I handed it across, then a furrow of concern bit into his brow. ‘What!’ he exclaimed. ‘You have House of Cards in this country, too?’

I’m fortunate that House of Cards has become something of a global phenomenon, but the story about President Xi illustrates a far more fundamental point. It’s not so much what goes on in front of the camera but the extraordinary changes going on behind the camera that are truly significant. That I could talk to the President of China about such things shows just how strong our global culture is becoming. We in the West are able to talk with, and to entertain, to reach out to people in every corner of the globe. This has the potential to be an immensely powerful and positive tool.

In the West, indeed in Europe, we have given so much to the world. From Mozart to Einstein, from Shakespeare to the Beatles, so many great men and women have left their mark that endures through the ages and across borders. We have become all too good at criticising so much of what we do, and self-analysis is hugely important, but in that process we should never forget how much we have contributed - and will still contribute. We have led the world in so many areas, and will continue to do so.

Here in Britain we have become experts in self-flagellation. We are told we are too small, too insignificant, irrelevant. Yet we have the world’s fifth largest economy, and one that is growing, despite the cynics. We have the world’s fourth most powerful military establishment. We have three of the world’s top ten universities - one of which is, of course, our own. We are the world’s second most generous nation in terms of foreign aid and private charitable giving. And all by ourselves, just four years ago, we staged the most successful Olympic Games the modern
world has seen. Not bad for a tiny, supposedly irrelevant island. We have occupied, and continue to occupy, a special place.

There is yet another House I need to mention, of course. Our House. Christ Church. The dream of Cardinal Wolsey made mortar. I’m delighted to be hosting this event this evening which helps keep us all connected. Staying connected is crucial. I am proud to be a member of our House. We are privileged in that membership. And I am in awe of what Michael Moritz and Harriet Heyman have done to mark that privilege.

Their generosity has helped reinforce what it is we are about, and carry those things into a new era for another generation. There has never been a more important time to reinforce the intellectual asperity of the tutorial system, and to ensure open access to our places of learning.

Right now the academic world is suffering from an excess of fads and fashions, which in short amount to intellectual intolerance. Universities are becoming known for setting up what are called ‘safe spaces’, for attempts to restrict freedom of speech and thought, for rewriting or blanking out great swathes of history, for pushing away opinions that some find uncomfortable.

My tutorials were never much like that. They had no trace of a safe space, my opinions were never so much pushed away as put to the fire, and reforged, with the pain of that process eased by the occasional glass of rather fine sherry.

Our public life is suffering, too. It’s become known for its elitism, its bubbles and cocoons, its increasing intolerance. And along with that it’s increasingly becoming known for its failures. We have lost the common cause that links old ideas with the new, the sense of continuity that carries us onward, the critical but constructive analysis that strengthens everything we do.

Instead of engaging in any thought, too many politicians engage themselves in constant campaigning. They lose sight of the long term, no longer bother with the vision thing. It’s said that on a clear day here in Westminster it’s possible to see almost as far as Battersea. Yet on any day from the steps of Christ Church library you can see just as far as your imagination will take you.

We are here today to support something of huge importance, those principles that the Moritz-Heyman benefaction stands upon. Freedom of Thought. Freedom of Analysis. Freedom of Access. And inclusion. Your inclusion.

There is a phrase that’s rather popular at the moment, which says Breakfast is Breakfast. And, ladies and gentlemen, a Fund Raiser is a Fund Raiser. So thank you for being here. Listen carefully to what Aileen has to say to you. Please join in the generosity of spirit that has been shown so superbly by our benefactors.

Privilege brings with it obligation. We are immensely privileged to be members of Christ Church. I hope we will be generous, too, and help ensure that our House can pass those benefits we so enjoyed onto a new generation.

Aileen Thomson, Development Executive, gives an update on the Moritz-Heyman Project

“It is the responsibility of every generation that comes through the doors of Christ Church to leave the college in far better shape than when they arrived.”

Michael Moritz (1973, History) and his wife Harriet Heyman have made transformative gifts to both Christ Church and Oxford University, allowing hundreds of students from lower income backgrounds to experience an Oxford education. Their support means that twenty Moritz-Heyman scholars are currently studying at the House, with over 150 more in the wider university.

Michael and Harriet’s generosity also extends to supporting the next generation of philanthropists. The Moritz-Heyman Society aims to encourage recent leavers to support current and future Christ Church students with modest regular gifts, and to recognise those who do so. We depend on the regular support of Old Members to maintain and improve our activities, and I am delighted that membership of the Society now numbers ninety-three Old Members.

As well as tutorial subjects and extra-curricular activities, I have been hugely encouraged by the number of members who have chosen to support our bursary scheme. We spend around £100,000 per year on additional bursarial support at Christ Church, ranging from book grants for all undergraduates and funding to support research, to crucial help for undergraduates who find themselves in unexpected financial difficulty.

It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you over the last year, and I look forward to seeing the network flourish with your support.
CAREER FOCUS: THE ARMED FORCES

Three Old Members reflect on how their time at Christ Church shaped their subsequent military careers.

AIR COMMODORE TIM WINSTANLEY (1977)

In all honesty I can’t say that the House in 1977 was the warm, friendly and inclusive community it appears to be today but I survived quite happily, had no expectations that it would be any different and, at the time, had no benchmark against which to measure it. My fourth year studying Metallurgy and Materials Science was the best period by far: as a member of the GCR, I was beyond exam stress and accordingly utilised the longer terms to make much more of my time in Oxford. That said, I must have spent a considerable amount of time in the bar, since my representative ‘sports’ were confined to table football and darts! Overall, it must have been a very positive experience since I had no hesitation in encouraging my daughter Isabelle (2016) to apply to read Classics.

Having been commissioned into the RAF’s Education Specialisation in 1981 I was posted to RAF College Cranwell to teach graduate engineers a leavening of materials science. That I had the chutzpah to do so at the ripe old age of 22 must, I imagine, have been in no small measure due to confidence acquired in Oxford. In common with many public sector professions, I graduated from delivering (education and training in my case) to managing and then to generating policy and strategy. The 5 years I intended to spend in the RAF became 30 and ended with tours in the guise of ‘Whitehall warrior’. As the Ministry of Defence’s Director of Training & Education I had the questionable privilege of working alongside various Ministers of Defence – an instructive experience.

Perhaps the confident assumption of competence coupled with the ability to communicate effectively were the greatest gains from four years at the House. I couldn’t say that the Armed Forces make widespread use of the higher intellectual virtues promoted at Oxford, although the RAF – probably with reasonable justification – regards itself as the most technical and highly educated of the three Services. It’s also the most meritocratic, paying rather less regard to old school (or College!) ties than the Army or Navy. I am not aware of a vast number of Housemens or women rising to high rank in the RAF – though the most significant exception to that is Marshal of the Royal Air Force Viscount Portal of Hungerford KG GCB OM DSO & Bar MC DL, Chief of the Air Staff 1940-46, whose wartime papers reside in the College Library.

MAJOR NICOLA ROBERTS (NÉE CROWTHER) (1997)

If you’d asked me as an undergrad to list in order of likeliness the professions I’d end up doing, I would have ranked being the Queen’s shoe breaker-inner higher than joining the Army! But here I am 15 years into a military career after finding office work simply
not exciting enough. During that time I have deployed on operational tours to Kosovo, Iraq, Northern Ireland, and Afghanistan as well as exercises in Canada, the US, Croatia, Germany, and France.

A feature of Army life that very soon struck me was the massive responsibility bestowed upon the junior officers. The year after commissioning, I was leading 2km-long resupply convoys through the hostile Iraqi desert with over 60 lives in my charge. Fortunately nothing particularly perilous happened during that 6-month tour, but subsequently I trained in bomb disposal where staring danger in the eye was in the job description. I was slightly economical with the truth when telling my parents what my job entailed, claiming that I was deploying to Afghanistan to do a perfectly safe desk-job. It was 2009 and at that time IEDs were taking many lives. A few years later my mother was rather perturbed to hear me on Radio 4 discussing what it was like for a female bomb disposal operator in Afghanistan. Oops! Well, at least the danger was over by then!

Another characteristic of Army life is variety. My career has meandered through Defence Intelligence, IT, discipline, and now command of a logistics squadron of 180 soldiers. I can identify a few transferable skills honed at Christ Church that have helped along the way.

The free-thinking and fresh ideas encouraged at Christ Church have also been useful when I’ve needed to develop innovative ways of brightening up the teaching of tedious subjects, or when keeping 180 soldiers gainfully occupied while on high readiness, anxiously waiting for the balloon to go up.

My career has meandered through Defence Intelligence, IT, discipline, and now command of a logistics squadron of 180 soldiers. I can identify a few transferable skills honed at Christ Church that have helped along the way.

My initial training lasted roughly two years, with a year spent in military training and academic study at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, followed by another year at sea learning my trade as a Warfare Officer in activities and locations varying from mine-hunting in the Persian Gulf to anti-submarine warfare in the North Atlantic. On completion of my final professional examinations, I joined HMS Defender as a junior officer of the watch for the latter seven months of her nine month deployment to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. The Ship’s main role was supporting the American and French carrier strike groups launching strikes against ISIS in Iraq, providing air and surface defence and security in the interesting political atmosphere of the Gulf in the aftermath of the Iranian nuclear deal earlier in the year. However we were also involved in (reasonably successful) counter-narcotics operations, and diplomatic efforts in locations ranging from Croatia, through Israel and Saudi Arabia, to the Bay of Bengal. I am, of course, victim of the assumption of friends that travelling is automatically equivalent to holidaying; many people in the same or similar careers to mine would point out that work is a drag wherever in the world you do it, and that excessive travel often makes home look far more appealing!

Oxbridge graduates are a relatively rare breed in the Royal Navy, and the immediate question I get from many, both within and outside the Service, is whether the Navy is sufficiently intellectually stimulating. My answer is, of course, ’yes’: never mind the technical and professional requirement of naval officers to be proficient in a wide range of areas (think of the origin of the phrase ’jack of all trades’), my job in its fundamental sense is to deal with the implications of international power politics on a near daily basis and – in its most extreme form – the question of life and death. What could be more intellectually stimulating?

On returning to Portsmouth with HMS Defender in July 2016 I helped put her into refit before joining HMS St Albans last October, and have since then participated in operations in support of national tasking and the strategic nuclear deterrent in British and Northern waters, progressing to a position as a senior officer of the watch. I hope that I continue in future years to find engaging the combination of the intellectual and the practical that the Navy offers, but I am sure that, whether I pursue a full career or not, both Christ Church and the Royal Navy have set me up well for the rest of life.

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**LIEUTENANT THOMAS HINE (2008)**

I read History at Christ Church from 2008 to 2012 and, following a year-long interlude as a research student at Exeter University, entered the Senior Service as a junior officer in 2013. Which of the qualities required by the armed forces did I take away from my arts degree as its elusive but much-plugged ’transferable skills’? Discipline? Not so much. Self-confidence? Probably a bit. Maybe more an ability to work hard (when required) and (on occasion) function effectively with little sleep. But probably most useful to me, in a workplace where group-think can be endemic and which invented the concept of doing things ’by the book’, has been the acquired habit of asking who wrote the book and why they wrote it: the product of hours spent sitting in armchairs being prodded into thinking a bit more critically about history and its authors.
OBITUARY:

JOHN HENLEY HEATHCOTE WILLIAMS


Heathcote Williams (1960), who has died aged 75, was a unique and brilliant writer – poet, dramatist, visionary and pamphleteer. He restored and renovated a sense of intellectual anarchy in our public discourse in the great traditions of Jonathan Swift, William Blake and Percy Bysshe Shelley, all of whom were among his heroes.

Williams himself, an erudite and perpetually incensed Old Etonian non-joiner, was admired early on by William Burroughs, Samuel Beckett and Harold Pinter. He flitted in and out of public acclamation but had lately come into focus, with a fringe theatre revival of his first play, The Local Stigmatic (1966), giving the prophetic and chilling lowdown on today’s celebrity culture; with a devastating poetic broadside entitled Boris Johnson: The Blond Beast of Brexit – A Study in Depravity; and with, at this year’s Brighton festival, The Big Song, a learned treatise of a narrative, complete with a 100-strong choir, on the history of mass music-making with special reference to birdsong, protest song and baby song.

The quality of anger is usually strained, but Williams’s muse was fuelled by a witty and beautiful anger that he channelled in three great poems at the end of the 1980s: Whale Nation, a wonderful hymn to the largest of all the mammals and a plea for their protection, Sacred Elephant, and Autogeddon, a JG Ballard-style ballad about the plague of the motor car.

All three were filmed by the BBC, the third performed by Jeremy Irons. Williams himself made notable recordings – in his day, he was a charismatic troubadour – of Buddhist scripture, Dante and the Bible, and a collection of shorter poems, Zanzibar Cats (2011), which skewered political absurdity, planetary destruction and social justice mishaps with delightful glee and great verbal dexterity.

His writing and curiosity led him in many different directions that all seemed, in the end, to converge. He was a member of the Magic Circle, learned fire-eating from Bob Hoskins (and accidentally set himself ablaze when demonstrating his new talent to his...
John Henley Heathcote Williams, the son of a barrister, Harold Heathcote Williams, and his wife, Julian (nee Henley), was born in Helsby, Cheshire, and was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, where he studied law but did not take his degree as he was already researching his first book, about the postwar soap-box orators in Hyde Park. In the mid-60s he became a pin-up of the underground press and a talismanic, though always elusive, figure in the counter-culture of the day.

He was a founding editor with Bill Levy, Jim Haynes and Germaine Greer of the sexual liberation newspaper, Suck. In his autobiography Thanks for Coming! Haynes recalls that, in their first meeting, “Heathcote and Jean [Shrimpton] excused themselves to go into another room to make love. Bill, Germaine and I continued to talk. Later, when the paper folded, I looked back on this meeting as our first mistake. We should all five have made love together.”

Williams’s reputation was made on the International Times, and with The Speakers (1964), which Pinter reviewed encouragingly (“These are the only people I’d ever want to listen to”) before inviting Williams to provide a short play to go with one of his own on a double-bill at the Traverse theatre in Edinburgh. The Local Stigmatic (which in 1990 would become a fairly good movie produced by, and starring, Al Pacino) was then presented at the Royal Court in London and was hailed by the critic John Russell Taylor as “a succession of savage encounters composed with the utmost care and precision of style in mustering an extraordinary battery of insults and threats.”

Four years later, in 1970, the Court got round to producing another script of what proved to be Williams’s signature play, AC/DC, after it had been collecting dust in the interim. This study of warring states of mind, originally titled Skizotopia, ended with the lead character being amateurishly trepanned in response to the “information explosion” in which “all ideas and opinions would be available to all people and therefore rendered impotent.” A front-page
review in the Times Literary Supplement (by Charles Marowitz) hailed “the first play of the 21st century”, while the play’s director, Nicholas Wright, identified the rich paradox of a piece that conveyed the non-verbal with such fantastic command of language.

Wright also noted that Williams “showed no ambition to do anything so silly as conquer the theatre” and always stayed as cheerful and classy as ever, “the man you most want to bump into walking round a corner”. But when the Court veterans William Gaskill and Max Stafford-Clark launched their touring Joint Stock company in 1975, their opening show was a promenade staging of The Speakers, and Williams fleshed out his platform oratory with additional conversations and plot development.

Other short plays of this decade included Remember the Truth Dentist (1974), summarised by one critic as a full-frontal assault on the western “death culture” in favour of “a Zen- and sperm-orientated Mongolian cluster-fuck”, and Hancock’s Last Half Hour (1977), a short monologue for the morose comic (played by Henry Woolf, Pinter’s friend from Hackney schooldays) on the brink of suicide in an Australian hotel, defining laughter as “thoracic epilepsy cured by a poke in the eye with a wet stick” and making jokes as “a leap into outer space”.

One of my favourite moments in any work of Williams came in this Hancock suicide note when, after the lights went down and came up after a scene change, the comic, stretched out on the floor, said to the audience: “That was my blackout, not yours.”

A cascade of poetry and pamphlets ensued over the years, many of them self-published, or distributed privately. I have no idea how long his Christopher Marlowe play, Killing Kit, has been languishing unperformed; admittedly there have been countless mediocre plays about Marlowe, but none so convinced of his victimisation, as both a voracious homosexual and a threat to the entire political system, by the intelligence services: “Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight,” as Marlowe himself said of Faustus.

Williams, who lived in Oxford with his longterm partner Diana Senior, a historian, joked that he had spent the last 20 years in obscurity and illness. After his “second bout” of fame with the long poems, he characteristically turned to something new, painting and sculpting, and becoming proficient in both disciplines. But then, along with the Boris broadside and the Brighton sing-song, he popped up with another fringe play earlier this year, penning The Ruff Tuff Cream Puff Estate Agency, a delightful, funny evocation of the squatters’ movement, for Adrian Jackson’s Cardboard Citizens season of Home Truths.

Apart from The Tempest, Williams made, when invited, occasional, desultory appearances in movies – Sally Potter’s Orlando (1992), Mike Figgis’s The Browning Version (1994) and Miss Julie (1999), Des McAnuff’s Cousin Bette (1998) with Jessica Lange and Bob Hoskins, and even Basic Instinct 2 (2006) – but these were like holiday jobs. His overriding commitment was to the written word as a means of liberation, activism, galvanic dissent, the harrowing of hell and the soaring of souls.

He died after an extended period of ill health, and is survived by Diana and their two daughters, China and Lily, three grandchildren, Freya, Albi and Wilf; Charlie Gilmour, his son with the novelist Polly Samson; and his younger sister, Prue.

John Henley Heathcote Williams, poet and dramatist, born 15 November 1941; died 1 July 2017.

Below: 1960, Matriculands’ names.
OBITUARY: GERALD PARKHOUSE

Gerald Parkhouse (1950), who died peacefully at home in Elmira, New York, USA on January 24, 2017, was a great supporter of the Christ Church Boat Club and wrote two books which relate to rowing at the House and have recently been published. He read French and German from 1950-53, and was proud to have rowed for the House 1st VIII, including at Henley Royal Regatta.

He joined the UK subsidiary of Mobil Corporation in 1953 as a management trainee, and worked for them in the UK, Europe and the USA (during which time he also received an MS degree from Boston University), until 1985, when he retired from the position of Chairman, Mobil Aviation and Marine Sales Limited in London. He had become a U.S. citizen in 1971 and returned to the U.S. to join Elmira College in New York where he served for the next twenty years as Corning Glass Professor of International Business. He was also a Regional Visiting Fellow at Cornell University, authored numerous scholarly articles, and the International Business Studies Case Book Hathaway Electronics. He was a lifelong Episcopalian, Head Usher of his Church, and an amateur church organist.

Gerald was always a keen ambassador for all things connected with the sport of rowing, particularly where Christ Church or Leander Club were involved. As an accomplished rowing historian and author he was particularly supportive of the House and over many years he researched the history of Christ Church Boat Club, transcribing and editing a number of the Club's nineteenth century record books. His history of Christ Church's many appearances at Henley Royal Regatta in the period 1839-1989 has recently been published: The House at Henley. Most recently, he researched and wrote about the life of William Fletcher, one of the true giants of the rowing world: William ‘Flea’ Fletcher, A Life 1869-1919.

William ‘Flea’ Fletcher

Gerald Parkhouse

‘The subject of this biography is best known today from the Vanity Fair print of 1893 by ‘Spy’ (Leslie Ward), in which the twenty-three year old Fletcher stands in his Oxford Blues blazer and lettered sweater, legs apart, hands in pockets, tiny cap on head, gazing out directly at the reader, the master of all he surveys. In his time, William Fletcher was one of the giants of the rowing world, whose guts and determination also brought him distinction and respect both on the river and on the battlefield. He deserves to be remembered.’ from the foreword by Professor Boris Rankov.

William Fletcher’s statistics speak for themselves. He was a successful rower at Eton and Christ Church and was a member of the winning Oxford University Boat Race crews in 1890, 1891, 1892, and 1893. Fletcher then coached Oxford to victory in the 1894 and 1897 Boat Races. Controversially, he then coached Cambridge’s crew for the 1898 Boat Race and again in 1899, steering them to a convincing victory.

On his return from the Boer War, Fletcher coached Oxford again in 1902, 1904, 1905, and 1906. As a steward and umpire for Henley Royal Regatta, Fletcher was involved with preparations for the 1908 Olympic Rowing competitions and played a major role as a Commanding Officer during the First World War.

Using material from the Fletcher Family archive and the Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Clubs’ records, Gerald Parkhouse pieces together a life of athletic challenges, innovation and success.
Christ Church Boat Club

This has been an exceptionally active and exciting bicentenary year for the Boat Club.

The Boat Club endowment project came to fruition thanks to the generosity of Alex Beard and Emma Vernetti, M1 went Head of the River for a record 33rd time, and the bicentenary was celebrated with a marquee dinner in the Master’s Garden and a Row past at Henley.

The year began with a less than successful Torpids. W1 did well to finish Third on the River, but M1 now lie sixth. Neither M2 nor W2 performed well. However, more encouragingly the 2017 Oxford and Cambridge Boat Races featured eight Christ Church rowers.

William Warr (DPhil in Population Health) was the third man to row for both Oxford and Cambridge in the Boat Races, having raced for Cambridge in 2015. He has also represented GB at the World Championships, as has Oliver Cook (MSt in Imperial & Global History) who also trained with the GB squad at the Rio Olympics. Congratulations on the Boat Race win! In the OUWBC Blue Boat, which unfortunately lost to the Light Blues, Harriet Austin (MBA) made her debut for Oxford. She had previously represented New Zealand at the Elite World Rowing Championships.

The House also had an astounding five rowers in the Reserve Boats: Isis and Osiris. The winning Isis boat included: James White (Geography), who was the Blue Boat spare in 2015 and a member of the Blue Boat last year. William Cahill (PPE), previously represented South Africa at the World University Games, and Benedict Aldous (Engineering), also made his Oxford debut, having previously represented GB at the Junior World Rowing Championships. The fourth representative was Claas Mertens (MPhil in Politics: European Politics and Society), who has represented Germany in the World Rowing Championships. Finally, in Osiris we had Lise du Buisson (DPhil in Astrophysics), who was a novice at Christ Church Boat Club in 2015.

Summer Eights lived up to its potential as the returning Blues and Half-Blues ensured a return to the Headship in the Club’s 200th anniversary year. It was particularly pleasing to have M1 catch Oriel on the Wednesday, row over on Thursday, and then twice fend off a talented Keble crew. W1 also did exceptionally well, rising two places to Third on the River. Both M2 and W2 gained two places, capping a strong showing.
from the ChChBC overall – and one on which further success can surely be built. Congratulations to all the crews and individuals involved, especially our departing Head Coach, Mike Genchi, who has been nothing short of inspirational.

The boat burning is featured elsewhere in this magazine, but three weeks later the Club and many alumni gathered again for the bicentenary celebrations. Alex Beard looked on as the Dean named a boat after him, and then a splendid dinner was rounded off with speeches from the Boat Club President, Jennifer Soderman; the Society President, David Edwards; and Jonny Searle, Houseman and Olympic Gold medal winner!

The Row past at Henley, and the drinks party that evening, capped a memorable year. The next stage of our drive to keep the Boat Club at or near the Head of the River involves a refurbishment of the Boat House. So, thank you to all who have made this year’s celebrations possible, and thank you to those of you who will continue to support the Club in the future.
The Secret Lives of Colour

Kassia St Clair

The Secret Lives of Colour tells the unusual stories of the 75 most fascinating shades, dyes and hues. From blonde to ginger, to the brown that changed the way battles were fought, the white that protected against the plague, Picasso’s blue period, the charcoal on the cave walls at Lascaux, acid yellow, Kelly green, and from scarlet women to imperial purple, these surprising stories run like a bright thread throughout history. In her debut book Kassia St Clair has turned her lifelong obsession with colours and where they come from into a unique study of human civilisation. Across fashion and politics, art and war, The Secret Lives of Colour tells the vivid story of our culture.

Kassia St Clair (2009) is an author and journalist. She received a First in History from Bristol, and went on to study C18th women’s dress at masquerade balls at Christ Church, where she received a Distinction. She has since written about culture and design for publications including The Economist, Quartz, 1843, the New Statesman and the Evening Standard, and has been a columnist for Elle Decoration since 2013.

The Tale Of Two Terriers And The Somerset Cat

Tim Cawkwell

On 23 September 2016, the last day of the County Championship, three teams were in contention to seize the crown. Somerset would win if Middlesex and Yorkshire could wrestle themselves to a draw at Lord’s. They almost did, but 28 balls from the end of the fourth day of the final game of the season, Middlesex grasped the winning prize. Just at the moment when the long form of the game is at risk of being pushed to the margins as old-fashioned and unprofitable, it produced a sensational climax.

The Tale Of Two Terriers And The Somerset Cat starts in Taunton in early August 2016, and follows the twists and turns of the championship right up to that dramatic 23 September. The whole is enriched by some sixty of Tim Cawkwell’s own photographs.

Tim Cawkwell (1966) writes about the cinema, travel, and cricket.

Published by Sforzinda Books. Price: £12.50 paperback, £5.50 digital.

Doctors At War

Mark de Rond

Like those left in their charge, the doctors and nurses found themselves at the receiving end of man’s ultimate blood sport. And by God did they know it.

In 2011, as part of an ethnographic study, Mark de Rond spent six weeks at the ‘world’s bloodiest’ field hospital: Camp Bastion, in Afghanistan. His aim: to portray the lived experience of the surgical team working there. Encouraged to write the book ‘without fear of censorship’ by a high-ranking medical officer in the MOD, this book is rare in its detail and told with a brutal honesty. Everything happened; nothing has been exaggerated. On its completion, the MOD opposed it for this very reason.

De Rond’s book provides the reader with a unique insight into the chaotic, confusing, sad, unprocessed, and frequently absurd reality faced by good people dealing with a daily dose of horrific injuries and death combined with too much time on their hands. It is at once tragic and comic, shining light on a reality we are not supposed to see.

Mark de Rond (1996) is Professor of Organisational Ethnography at the University of Cambridge. jbs.cam.ac.uk/faculty-research/faculty-a-z/mark-de-rond.
Spare Change

Iona Bain

The working title for this book was ‘I want to be happy with money’, with a mission to show that anyone can have a more fulfilling approach to money, regardless of personality, background, or income.

Spare Change is a jargon-free and entertaining walk through a comprehensive menu of personal financial issues and challenges. It is packed with practical advice and self-awareness tips, but also with quirky stories and wry quotations from Aristotle to Dolly Parton.

Iona begins with the psychology of money and how we think about it. Subsequent chapters cover practical advice on how markets and products work, a guide to formulating a workable budgeting plan; taboos around money, and ethical spending and saving choices.


Published by Hardie Grant. Price: £8.99.

Louis Harold Gray

Sinclair Wynchank

Virtually everyone reading these details of a biography of Hal Gray has benefitted from his work, yet both he and his work are very little known. Hal’s personal life was sometimes as exciting as his scientific achievements and could be the subject of a thrilling Hollywood docudrama. He worked in a complex scientific field, but this book is aimed at sixth-form level and contains only one (well-known) equation.

After studying nuclear physics at Trinity College, Cambridge, in the 1920s and 30s, Hal decided to devote his life to improving cancer treatment. So he mastered and applied several disparate disciplines, in a way that has been very rarely – if ever – equalled; and his consequent advances led the arena of certain cancer treatments.

Sinclair Wynchank (1957) entered The House to study mathematics and then physics, obtaining a DPhil in nuclear physics. After subsequent work at Columbia NYC, he moved to South Africa and to a MB, ChB. This work, and a subsequent higher degree in medicine, occupied him until retirement.

Drawn Three Ways

A.E. Harvey

In this compelling memoir, Anthony Harvey traces the three ways he has felt drawn throughout his life — to a ministry in the Anglican priesthood, to a profession in theological scholarship, and to his marriage and family.

Harvey recounts his training of clergy in Canterbury, his time as canon of Westminster Abbey, his teaching and research at the University of Oxford, and his many exciting travels. He also candidly discusses the challenges presented by his marriage to an artist and writer suffering depression, and the premature death of their daughter.

Throughout the book Harvey narrates his inner tensions, his own spiritual questioning, and his propensity toward a Christian stoicism.

A. E. Harvey (1962) is Emeritus Canon of Westminster and former lecturer in theology at the University of Oxford.
Sophie Power (2000) PPE, CEO of Airlabs, on the 'Spartathlon', running race from Athens to Sparta.

The Acropolis, Athens. 7am, September 30 2016. I’m standing nervously with 300 talented athletes from across the world. Ahead of us are 153 miles of road and mountain, accompanied by the scorching Greek sun, with our goal to reach Sparta before sunset tomorrow. History predicts that far less than half of us will finish, such is the brutal nature of the race.

Many of you may be surprised to read this as during my Christ Church years I’d never run further than to the boathouse (under duress). But a chance reunion with an Oxford UAS friend made me fall into ultrarunning in 2010 and I’ve been running across the world ever since.

My quest that day was to follow in the footsteps of the ancient Athenian hemerodrome, Pheidippides. He is most often remembered for dying after delivering the message of victory from the Battle of Marathon. And to many, running a marathon in itself is impressive. However his true feat of endurance occurred several days earlier when he was sent to Sparta to ask for help defending Athens from the invading Persians. Legend has it that he set out running from Athens at sunrise, arriving at Sparta before Sunset the next day.
In the 1980s Wing Commander John Foden, an avid student of Greek history, wondered if a modern man really could cover the 153 miles from Athens to Sparta within the same 36 hours. After attempting it with a group of RAF members, one did succeed and in 1983 this became an annual event known as Spartathlon.

I’d only entered on a whim – having managed to run a qualifying time, I thought why not. But finding my name as the only female on the British team and realising only 8 British women had ever finished it, I couldn’t pull out. I didn’t realise then that most of them were world record holders or national/world champions and I was juggling being mum to a 22 month old and CEO of a start-up and was certainly not a naturally talented runner.

With little fanfare we set off from the Acropolis (which had the virtue that the first bit was a nice downhill). I carried very little – the race provides 75 checkpoints for fuel and water and I’d recruited two friends as crew, who would meet me at 14 of the checkpoints for support. The first marathon flashed past in 4:15 and my crew handed me gourmet tortilla wraps, replaced electrolytes and drenched me with ice water for good measure.

In every town, schoolchildren lined the streets wanting autographs and pictures – I’d learned a few phrases which had them all giggling and made me wonder if my Greek friends had played a trick on me! A long climb led up to Ancient Corinth and the fortune to admire the feat of engineering of the Corinth Canal. Many fail to make the 50 mile cut off here (9.30) or simply burn out from starting too fast.

Now the race truly started and the route took us through olive groves and the steep trail ascent of Mount Parthenio in the middle of the night. Here Pheidippides was said to have met the God Pan, who demanded that the Athenians worship him in return for his help on the battlefield. As the dawn gave me renewed energy I wondered how he had felt. I had the latest technical gear, an abundance of food and frequent water supply. He would have been in sandals and fuelling from the land. I decided not to complain to my crew that they had run out of guacamole.

With a good spell overnight I was several hours up on the cut-offs. But after 138 miles I suddenly felt my left quad give way and start to swell quickly, having taken too much impact from the camber of the road. I tried to run again but fell. I limped on in pain, staring at the speed reading on my watch to ensure I was still going fast enough to make it into Sparta for sunset.

These were the longest five hours of my life. Trucks passed, covering me in clouds of hot dust as the sun scorched my skin. The ice stuffed down my sports bra at checkpoints melted within minutes as I struggled to regulate my core temperature. I had been awake for well over 36 hours, and I was hallucinating badly – seeing creatures emerge from bushes and people who would vanish as I approached.

Finally I dragged my body into Sparta. Draped in a Union Jack with an olive branch coronet placed upon my head I kissed the foot of the towering statue of King Leonidas and drank water from the holy river of Eurotas. The adrenaline finally gone, my legs seized and crumbled, unable to take another step.

The next day, the Mayor of Sparta hosted celebrations for the runners, followed by the Mayor of Athens the night after. At the same time Pheidippides had to run all the way back with the message that the Spartans would support, but only after the full moon had come. Now knowing help would come too late, the outnumbered Athenians (with the help of the God Pan) launched a surprise attack which led to their eventual victory and the evolution of Western society as we know it.

As we danced the night away in Athens, one runner arrived having made the return journey by foot. If ever the freedom of my country were at stake, I’d like to think my legs could have made the return journey as Pheidippides did. I might have to go back one day to check.
Dr Leah Broad, (2010) College Lecturer in Music, explores how history’s sounds can tell us as much about the past as its sights.

If you wanted to cause controversy in the early twentieth century, your best bet was probably to write a play. Henrik Ibsen’s Ghosts was ‘an open drain: a loathsome sore unbandaged; a dirty act done publicly’, wrote one reviewer for The Daily Telegraph. Since Aristotle, theatre has been considered a valuable tool for moral and artistic education, assuming that witnessing an act in performance has greater impact than reading it in print. So as one of the most popular fin-de-siècle art forms, the theatrical stage became a battleground. Playwrights tackled subjects they believed to be of critical importance to modern life (venereal disease was the source of The Daily Telegraph’s horror). Meanwhile their detractors filled newspapers with acerbic criticism, determined to save society from these ‘dirty acts done publicly’.

We know a great deal about these plays and their authors. But what did the dramas sound like? The stagings of the plays were at least partly responsible for their impact on audiences, so without some knowledge of the productions as well as the texts, we lose a lot of information about how these plays communicated in their time. Photographs, set designs, and costumes can give some idea about how performances would have looked, but sound is harder to determine.

There are a range of elements that make up the sound of the theatre, such as actors’ voices, sound effects, even environmental noises made by the audience, stage mechanisms, or coming from outside the auditorium. But my work focuses on incidental music — music written to accompany a particular play. By the end of the nineteenth century, music was often commissioned for large productions, and this could be anything from a couple of songs sung by one of the on-stage characters, to a full orchestral score that ran throughout the play, similar to film music today. Theatre music was big business: as the composer Charles Gounod put it, ‘For a composer there is really only one route to follow to make a name for himself, and that is the theatre.’

Many incidental scores survive, meaning that we can piece together something of how productions with incidental music might have sounded. And by listening to the theatre’s forgotten sonic world, we can gain a more nuanced understanding of how these plays were interpreted. The music can shape and influence the meaning of the text in performance, emphasising particular elements of the script and demoting others.

Take the play Till Damaskus (III) by the Swedish playwright August Strindberg. It’s a twentieth-century station drama written...
in 1904, chronicling one man’s spiritual journey from destitution to absolution. He encounters many obstacles along the way — particularly in the form of a character called ‘The Tempter’, who represents both the Devil and the protagonist’s alter-ego — but eventually enters a monastery at the conclusion of the drama. Strindberg wrote this play during a period of profound self-doubt and, in print, the play reads almost as a tragedy.

However, take into account Ture Rangström’s music, and the play becomes more like a satire. When the director Per Lindberg brought a production of Till Damaskus (III) to Stockholm in 1926, he commissioned music from Rangström, a composer who was associated with Strindberg and had previously written an opera based on one of his plays. His music for Till Damaskus transforms the drama, drawing out the ironic and humorous aspects of the text — he set a celebratory procession to funeral music, and laces the score with overtly melodramatic gestures in a quasi-comic episode where Eve is put on trial for original sin. But beyond this, he parodies Strindberg’s text itself. Till Damaskus is littered with earnest speeches about the redemptive role of women, and how it is their duty to be wives and mothers above all else. Rangström sets these to saccharine lullabies quite out of keeping with the rest of the score, taking these moments from sombre to satire.

If Strindberg’s views on women were tiresome in 1904 when he wrote the play, they were completely outdated by 1926, and Rangström’s music is testament to this societal change in attitude.

These are the productions that my research explores, using new source material to reassess how we think about twentieth-century theatre. I mainly work on Scandinavia, where ample research has been done on playwrights such as Ibsen and Strindberg, but much less is known about theatrical practice. Sometimes, though, I work a lot closer to home — I’ve just finished recording a short film with the BBC about Max Reinhardt’s production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream that he brought to Oxford in 1933, directing Oxford University Dramatic Society. Maybe some alumni will know people who had been involved in the production — the OUDS Junior Treasurer was a Christ Church member at the time. And it must have been quite a memorable show. They performed in South Parks, using the whole of the park. A reviewer for The Spectator gave some idea of how exhausting this must have been, writing that ‘One competitor suddenly dashed along the footlights and, much to the delight of the audience, failed to clear the water jump. Often during an intimate scene in the foreground one’s eye was caught by some lonely player plodding wearily around the furthest fringe of the meadow, the last lap of the three miles cross-country.’ It’s human moments like these that I love most about this research, fragments of memory which we lose when we study theatre as texts.

More about Leah’s research is available online, at leahbroad.wordpress.com.
What are the particular skills and considerations in designing a theatre? What makes an architect want to work in theatre design?

One of the most satisfying aspects is that theatres are complex and technically challenging spaces and therefore a real challenge to get just right. A new theatre presents a set of design factors that goes well beyond the appearance of the facade and involves successfully integrating all the technical infrastructure that is required for modern productions.

Another great aspect is that when the building is complete, it is possible for an architect to visit and experience the building as a member of the audience, the ability to enjoy the spaces that you have designed. This is less possible for architects who are designing offices, flats and houses.

From whose point of view do you envision the building?
The new building has been envisaged from the viewpoint of the people who will use and experience it on a day to day basis. This ranges from passers-by in the street, to local people attending community events, performers, theatre-goers, young people, theatre staff, and other professionals making use of the studio spaces. Our aim is to make the building enjoyable for everyone, inside and out.
In the architecture of a theatre, how much is art, how much science?
The essential element of successful theatre design is to be able to provide a space where there is a great sense of engagement between the audience and performer - as well as between members of the audience. Part of the design process involves working with the technical aspects of sightlines and geometry, but they are very much tools used to achieve a concept rather than a starting point. The real art in a theatre takes place in the performance, and the architecture although important is all to enable actors and directors to achieve their vision.

What has been your approach in working with the Ovalhouse team?
The Ovalhouse team have been a joy to work with. There is a strong sense of purpose and community to everything that happens at Ovalhouse and it is impossible not to get excited by their sense of creative enthusiasm. There is no desire with this project to create the largest theatre in London but there is a desire to create the best, as well as a building which really works for the local community.

I hope that some of the Ovalhouse passion has helped to shape the architectural design as it has taken shape, and that the building will embody some of the Ovalhouse spirit of enthusiasm.

What is the flavour of the Ovalhouse development that makes it distinct from other projects you have worked on?
The Ovalhouse theatre has a radical approach to the design of theatre spaces. There is a lot of flexibility in the way the building is put together and a sense that every space is there to be used by very different groups of people in a wide range of performances. In a sense the new building provides space for performances, but does not prescribe in what form they will take place. The new building will also be a centre not just for audiences and performers but also the local community, I think that the foyer and café on Coldharbour Lane will be a very popular place for local people to meet.

What are the constraints, and how have you tackled them?
A section of the Victoria line underground runs directly beneath. This means that the building cannot be made out of masonry or it would weigh too much for the tunnel structure below. Our answer has been to develop a design that uses a steel frame and lightweight aluminium cladding to reduce the overall weight of the building. There are also many constraints associated with noise isolation, both from the outside and between different performance spaces. We have tackled this with one of the best acoustic consultants in the country and a lot of acoustic linings.

From plan to the finished building, what is the aspect of the new Ovalhouse theatre that you are most looking forward to seeing on opening night?
I am most looking forward to seeing a building full of people enjoying themselves. Although we have spent months drawing the structure and details of the new building and will spend months watching it grow out of the ground, it is only when the new theatre it is finally full of people that it truly comes to life.

We too cannot wait to see our building come to life. The road towards Brixton is proving slow but steady. As part of a much bigger project, we have had to wait for complexities of the wider scheme to be sorted out. As I write, we are in the middle of the procurement of the contractors who will build our new theatre – ready to move into in 2019. It will be well worth the wait, and we look forward to welcoming you all.

HOW TO DONATE
You can make donations for a new home for Ovalhouse in the following ways:

ONLINE: MyDonate
https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/ovalhousetheatre

BACS: Account Name: Ovalhouse Capital Campaign Account: 80371793 Sort Code: 20 80 57

CHEQUE: Cheques made payable to Ovalhouse Capital Campaign c/o Katie Milton, Development Director – Capital Campaign, Ovalhouse, 52–54 Kennington Oval, London SE11 5SW
BOOKS WITHOUT ENDING

Professor Malcolm McCulloch, Tutor in Engineering

TERRY PRATCHETT

A favourite memory of mine is that of my wife, Mel, and I sitting around a bush fire, with three hyenas and an elephant, but no turtles, lurking in the background. Having feasted on a wonderful meal and excellent wine, we were in deep conversation with our guide – a South African Parks game ranger. The topic of conversation? The disc world. In this slightly surreal environment, an animated discussion was taking place about the wonderful blend of humour and insightfulness of the equally surreal series of books by Terry Pratchett. The two of us men were very much like the Mac Feegle, with Mel acting as the Kelda.

There is a slight raw edge to the conversation. The book was Thud – the topic was Koom Valley. Could the insights be applied to the real challenges facing South Africa? Two (or more!!) proud peoples, locked in history. Would our outcome be the same as played out in that particular book – would there be redemption or retribution? Are we as a nation to be open minded about the choices required for the long walk to freedom. Only time will tell.

Time is not what Terry Pratchett has anymore. His wonderful characters waltz through a world that is utterly different from our own, but somehow act and do in strangely familiar ways. This is why they are amongst my favourite books to read. TP brought life to me. But always, always read the footnotes.

1. Build a man a fire, and he’ll be warm for a day. Set a man on fire, and he’ll be warm for the rest of his life.
2. If you can’t learn to ride an elephant, you can at least learn to ride a horse.
3. Henry and Al Jolson were in complete agreement about what made a good meal – namely, calories.
4. ‘But alcohol debilitates the body and is a poison to the soul.’ SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
5. Ridiculously told jokes like a bullfrog did accountancy. They never added up.
6. Oh, aye,’ said Rob Anybody cheerfully. ‘Gettin’ oot o’ pubs sometimes causes us a cerrytain amount o’ difficulty, I’ll grant ye that.
7. ‘There was no point in arguing with Sybil, because even if you thought you’d won, it would turn out, by some magic unavailing to husbands, that you had, in fact, been totally misinformed.
8. It’s hard to talk to someone who understands.
9. Koom Valley? That was where the trolls ambushed the dwarfs, or the dwarfs ambushed the trolls?
10. But when the dwarf bars and the troll bars emptied out in the evening, hell went for a stroll with its sleeves rolled up.

11. But history … ah, history is different. History has to be observed. Otherwise it’s not history. It’s just … well, things happening one after another.
12. The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it.
13. This is in fact another book for another time …
14. If you drive through a town, it’s still there in the rear-view mirror. Time is a road, but it doesn’t roll up behind you. Things aren’t over just because they’re past.
15. Time goes so quickly when you’re dead.
16. It’s not worth doing something unless you were doing something that someone, somewhere, would much rather you weren’t doing.
17. All books of magic have a life of their own. Some of the really energetic ones can’t simply be chained to the bookshelves; they have to be nailed shut or kept between steel plates. Or, in the case of the volumes on tantric sex magic for the serious connoisseur, kept under very cold water to stop them bursting into flames and scorching their severely plain covers.
18. It is said that your life flashes before your eyes just before you die. That is true, it’s called Life.
19. The invisible people knew that happiness is not the natural state of mankind, and is never achieved from the outside in.
### SEPTEMBER

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<tr>
<td>9 September</td>
<td>BOARD OF BENEFACTORS GAUDY</td>
<td>Christ Church</td>
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<td>12 September</td>
<td>YOUNG ALUMNI DRINKS</td>
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<td>16 September</td>
<td>MODERN LANGUAGES DINNER</td>
<td>Christ Church</td>
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<td>16-17 September</td>
<td>OXFORD ALUMNI WEEKEND</td>
<td>Christ Church</td>
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<td>17 September</td>
<td>1546 SOCIETY LUNCH</td>
<td>Christ Church</td>
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<td>28 September</td>
<td>GAUDY 2006-2008</td>
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<td>FAMILY PROGRAMME TEA</td>
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<td>3 October</td>
<td>MORITZ-HEYMAN RECEPTION</td>
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<td>7TH CH STUART DINNER</td>
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<td>BENEFACTORS’ NEW YORK DINNER</td>
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<td>YEAR REP DINNER IN OXFORD</td>
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<td>26 November</td>
<td>FAMILY CHRISTMAS RECEPTION</td>
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### DECEMBER

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<td>7 December</td>
<td>VARSITY RUGBY MATCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 December</td>
<td>ST JOHN’S SMITH SQUARE CONCERT</td>
<td>London</td>
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**SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**1546 SOCIETY LUNCH**

Members and Friends of Christ Church, who have informed us of their intention to remember Christ Church in their will, are invited to the annual lunch of the 1546 Society at Christ Church, starting with a drinks reception in the SCR Garden at 12.30.

For more details please contact the Development Office.

**CHRIST CHURCH ASSOCIATION FAMILY GARDEN PARTY**

The Christ Church Association is delighted to invite you to a family garden party between 3pm and 5.30pm in the Master’s Garden (there will be a marquee in case of bad weather). A Jazz Quartet will play; afternoon tea will be served, along with a selection of sandwiches and cakes. Games of croquet, rounders and football will be organised for those who wish to take part.


**THE ASSOCIATION AGM**

The Association AGM will take place at 11.30am in the Dodgson Room. All members are welcome.
Music Events 2017–18

Apart from the daily services in the Cathedral, there are several opportunities to hear Christ Church Cathedral Choir in concert conducted by Stephen Darlington in his last year as the choir’s Director.

Music at Oxford will hold three Christmas Carol concerts this year, and the profits from the concert on 9 December will go to the Christ Church Cathedral Music Trust.

Saturday 9 December 2017
FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT (BOY CHORISTERS ONLY)
14.30 Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford (www.musicatoxford.com)

Friday 15 December 2017
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
20.00 Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford (www.musicatoxford.com)

Wednesday 20 December 2017
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
20.00 Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford (www.musicatoxford.com)

This year is the 32nd annual Christmas Festival in St. John's Smith Square in London and once again the Choir will feature.

Tuesday 12 December 2017
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
19.30 St. John's Smith Square, London (www.sjss.org.uk)

There is no better way to experience J.S. Bach's glorious St. John Passion than in the liturgical setting of Christ Church Cathedral, with the specialist Baroque orchestra Oxford Baroque and top soloists.

Wednesday 28 March 2018
J.S. BACH'S ST. JOHN PASSION (admission free)
19.30 Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

The Choir have become regular visitors to the U.S.A. where their recordings are particularly popular. The 2018 tour dates are listed below; a great opportunity to hear the Choir live in some beautiful venues.

Friday 6 April 2018
Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, NY

Monday 9 April 2018
Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA

Wednesday 11 April 2018
Davidson College Presbyterian Church, Davidson, NC

Friday 13 April 2018
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, La Grange, Chicago IL

The Choir will appear at St. John's Smith Square again for the exciting U.K. and European première of a new work by Howard Goodall (1976), one of the College's most famous former Music undergraduates.

_Invictus: A Passion_ is a new work for choir, soloists and orchestra by Howard Goodall, taking a fresh look at the meaning and modern resonance of the traditional Passion oratorios. It features poems by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, George Herbert, W.B. Yeats, William Ernest Henley, Christina Rossetti, Bayard Taylor and others, placed alongside the 1611 verse narrative of the biblical Passion written by Amelia Lanyer, née Bassano, Salve Deus Rex Judæorum, one of the first books published in the English language by a female poet. It will receive its world première in Houston, Texas, on Palm Sunday 2018 and its UK & European première at St John’s Smith Square on 25 May 2018, performed by Christ Church Cathedral Choir, conducted by Stephen Darlington, who will also make the première recording. This concert and recording mark the 25th anniversary of the unique collaboration between Stephen Darlington, the Choir, and Howard Goodall, which has resulted in a number of large scale choral works, recordings, TV theme tunes and documentaries.

Friday 25 May 2018
CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL CONCERT with Oxford Baroque
19.30 St. John’s Smith Square, London (www.sjss.org.uk)

W.H. Auden's entertaining versions of Aesop fables _Morailties_, set by Hans Werner Henze, will be featured in a short concert before a formal dinner in Christ Church Hall to celebrate Stephen Darlington's time at Christ Church. Tickets for both events, including combined ticket, will be available in due course.

Friday 29 June 2018
i. PRE-DINNER CONCERT including Moralities by Hans Werner Henze to a text by W.H. Auden; followed by a drinks reception. 1800-1900 Church of St. John the Evangelist, Oxford

ii. DRINKS RECEPTION AND FORMAL DINNER in Christ Church Hall to celebrate Stephen’s time at Christ Church.

A second event to mark Stephen’s departure will be more informal: A celebratory Evensong in the Cathedral will be followed by a Barbecue on Merton Fields from 19.00 onwards.

Saturday 7 July
CHORAL EVENSONG FOLLOWED BY A BARBECUE on Merton Fields.
18.00 Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

(Unconfirmed) A choir tour to China, Hong Kong and Macau in early August 2018.